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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01

IO-11 /072 W
---------- 007621
R 161753Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5695
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 361

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: CUNHAL ATTACKS FAR LEFT

REF: LISBON 0308 (DTG 151533Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: COMMUNIST LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL MADE STRONGEST ATTACK ON FAR LEFT SINCE ABORTIVE NOV 25 COUP. HIS REMARKS REFLECT COMMUNIST CONCERN THAT ANOTHER ULTRA-LEFT ADVENTURE LIKE NOVEMBER 25 WOULD END EQUALLY DISASTROUSLY. CUNHAL ALSO DEFENDED PCP CONTINUATION IN GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. CUNHAL ATTACKS FAR LEFT: COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL STRONGLY ATTACKED "RADICAL LEFTISM" AT LISBON
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RALLY JAN 15. HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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-- PCP INTENDS TO STAY IN GOVERNMENT; FALL OF GOVERNMENT WOULD MEAN FURTHER LURCH TO RIGHT.

-- 1976 ARRIVED FREIGHTED WITH "THREATS;" PATH OF REVOLUTION CONTINUES TO BE "IRREGULAR, DIFFICULT, UNCERTAIN AND DANGEROUS;"

-- FAR LEFT'S PROVOCATION OF THE ENEMY WHEN THE LEFT IS IN A WEAKENED CONDITION IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND ADVENTURISTIC;

-- FAR LEFT DEMONSTRATION OF JAN 16 ON ECONOMIC GRIEVANCES IS "DIVISIONIST," AND "CONTRARY TO INTERESTS OF WORKERS."

CUNHAL ALSO ATTACKED WAGE POLICY OF SOCIALISTS (PS) AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS (PPD), AND CALLED ON PS LEADERSHIP TO ABANDON ITS "ALLIANCE WITH THE RIGHT" AND RETURN TO TRUE LEFTIST ALLIANCE WITH PCP.

2. SOVIET SHIPS BOMBED: TWO BOMBS WERE THROWN JAN 16 FROM OPORTO BRIDGE AT SOVIET MERCHANT SHIP. ONE FAILED TO EXPLODE AND OTHER FAILED TO HIT SHIP.

3. CABINET SHUFFLE: SEVERAL ADDITIONAL STEPS WERE TAKEN JAN 15 ON REORGANIZATION OF AZEVEDO CABINET. PCP SUBMITTED NAME OF VITOR LOURO TO REPLACE ANTONIO BICA AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRARIAN RESTRUCTURING. LOURO, A PCP MEMBER, IS NOW WORKING IN SECRETARIAT FOR AGRARIAN RESTRUCTURING AND PREVIOUSLY WAS ASST DIRGEN FOR FORESTRY. PCP ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD NOMINATE VALDEMAR QUARESMA TO NEWLY CREATED SUBSECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE.

4. CUNHAL'S SPEECH IS ANOTHER REAFFIRMATION OF PCP DETER-MINATION TO STAY IN THE GOVERNMENT DESPITE THE CONTRADICTIONS ENGENDERED BY IMPLICIT PCP OPPOSITION TO CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. CUNHAL'S DEFENSIVE STATEMENT REFLECTS PCP'S WEAKENED CONDITION FOLLOWING ABORTIVE NOV 25 COUP. GIVEN PRESENT CORRELATION OF FORCES, CUNHAL IS INTENT ON AVOIDING ADVENTURES STIMULATED BY THE FAR LEFT WHICH COULD CAUSE FURTHER PCP LOSSES. CUNHAL CONTINUES HIS POLICY OF CAREFULLY AIMING HIS ATTACKS AT SOARES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP BUT EXCLUDING RANK AND FILE.

5. PS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LOPES CARDOSO INSISTED THAT PCP REPLACE SECRETARY OF STATE BICA. CREATION OF PCP SUB-SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE IS IN EXCHANGE FOR PCP GIVING UP CLAIM TO POSITION OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TOURISM. TOURISM RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN ABSORBED BY PS MINISTER OF EXTERNAL COMMERCE CAMPINOS.

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